MARVEL

2

LGY#214

EWING
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BLACK PANTHER

BROTHER, GET OUT OF THERE! YOU'RE NOT READY TO FACE **BEISA!**

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.
IN THE UNREST THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA TO BRING PEACE TO WAKANDA.
BUT EVEN IF HE IS NO LONGER KING, T'CHALLA WILL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK PANTHER.
AND THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALWAYS SERVE WAKANDA.

NOW THE BLACK PANTHER HIDES IN THE SHADOWS OF BIRNIN T'CHAKA.
T'CHALLA SOUGHT THE HELP OF LAWYER AND COMMUNITY LEADER N'YOBI TO UNDERSTAND
THIS FORGOTTEN INDUSTRIAL CITY. BUT ALSO IN THE SHADOWS ARE THE FIVE FAMILIES
WHO COVERTLY RULE BIRNIN T'CHAKA, AND THE ILONGA FAMILY HAS HIRED HELP TO SEIZE CONTROL.

BLACK PANTHER

REIGN AT DUSK PART 2

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BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

THE CITY OF BIRNIN T'CHAKA.

CAN YOU BELIEVE HE *DID* THAT TO ME? TOOK HER *SIDE!* AFTER ALL I HAD DONE FOR HIM.

TERRIBLE THING.

I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING OUT OF *TURN*, BUT YOUR BROTHER SOUNDS LIKE A *VERY SELFISH MAN.*

AH, HE IS JUST *AFRAID.*

HE IS AFRAID TO BE *ALONE.*

YOU ARE A GOOD *LISTENER*, IZE! AND A *HARD* WORKER. I GAVE YOU A *JOB* BECAUSE I FELT PITY FOR YOU. ALL ALONE, NEWLY ARRIVED HERE WITH NO *FAMILY.* BUT IT IS A GOOD THING FOR *ME* AS WELL.

I AM *GRATEFUL*, OBAWO.

YOU KNOW I HAD A SISTER TOO? WE WERE SEPARATED AS CHILDREN.

LIVED IN AMERICA. CALLED HERSELF *QUEEN DIVINE JUSTICE*--HOW *RIDICULOUS!*

SOME PEOPLE ARE... *DRIVEN* TO *TRANSFORMATION.* THEY CRAVE IT. PERHAPS HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

TRANSFORMATION?! PEOPLE SHOULD BE HAPPY WITH THEIR *LOT* IN *LIFE.* THAT'S WHAT BEING FROM BITI IS ABOUT-- *ACCEPTANCE* OF THE *WAY THINGS ARE.*

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD ZANEEBA THE OTHER DAY AS SHE SAT HERE DAYDREAMING ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHER. *THE BLACK PANTHER?* -*SNORT*- IN BITI?

NO, NO. I TOLD HER TO *GROW UP.* NO PLACE FOR DREAMERS IN THIS CITY.

GOOD NIGHT, FAIZA. I WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

GOOD NIGHT, *IZE.*

CLICK-CLICK

BROTHER! I NEED--

CAN YOU DEACTIVATE THE PROSTHETIC PROJECTOR? IT'S WEIRDING ME OUT.

AT THE MOMENT, NO, SHURI.

THINGS ARE UNCERTAIN FOR ME AS WELL. THERE ARE RUMBLINGS AT PARLIAMENT...

CALL ME LATER--WHEN YOU ARE IN A SAFE PLACE.

BZZZP

HM. IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE I AM MEANT TO BE ANYWAY.

GROWING UP, I THOUGHT *EVERYONE* WAS *FABULOUSLY* WEALTHY IN WAKANDA.

NO "*STREETS PAVED WITH GOLD*" @#$%&%$. I WASN'T *THAT* NAIVE.

BUT...*WEALTH.* REAL WEALTH.

ACCUMULATING ENDLESS TREASURE.

THESE DAYS, IT SEEMS MORE THAN EVER *BEFORE.*

OF COURSE, EVERYONE IS *FED* HERE. HOUSED. CLOTHED. EDUCATED. HEALED. SURELY, THAT SHOULD BE *ENOUGH.*

BUT STILL, THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE *MORE.* AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE.

DOES IT BOTHER ME THAT THEY HAVE SO MUCH WHILE OTHERS ONLY *GET BY?* NO. THAT'S THE WORLD. JUSTICE IS A FARCE.

BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN...

...WHY NOT PRESS A *FINGER* TO THE *SCALES?*

FOCUS, BEISA.

OLD *MINING* FAMILY. THEY ALWAYS HAVE THOSE HIDEOUS PORTRAITS WITH THE ORNAMENTAL *PICKAXES.* THE PRETENSE OF HAVING *WORKED* THE MINE RATHER THAN *OWNING* IT.

HOW GAUCHE CAN YOU BE?

SLEEP WELL, LOVELIES.

IT'S TRULY A PITY WHEN WE CONSIDER HOW MUCH YOU *PAID* FOR THIS *SECURITY SYSTEM.* THE GUARDS...ALL OF IT. NOTHING BUT *THEATER.*

IF ANYONE HAD *NOTICED* IN THE PAST *WEEK* THAT I TAMPERED WITH THIS WINDOW, I'D BE AWFULLY UNLUCKY IN MY *EXIT.*

LAZINESS ALWAYS BRINGS ITS OWN PUNISHMENTS.

AND WHAT ABOUT *THEFT?*

SO, THE RUMORS ARE *TRUE.* SOME WHELP IS *PLAY-ACTING* AS THE BLACK PANTHER. MINOR SACRILEGE FOR *SPORT.*

I'M NOT *ONE* TO *JUDGE*, BUT KEEP YOUR CHILDISH GAMES TO *YOURSELF* BEFORE SOMEONE GETS *HURT.*

SOMEONE... LIKE *YOU?*

NOT I, *IMPOSTOR.*

YOU HAVE THE *WRONG IDEA* ABOUT WHO *NEEDS DEFENDING* HERE.

AND I SUPPOSE I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO *CORRECT* ME?

I AM AFRAID YOU'RE NOT *THAT* LUCKY.

I DON'T HAVE *LEISURE HOURS* TO ENGAGE IN THIS *FRAUD* WITH YOU.

"*IMPOSTOR.*" "*FRAUD.*" SUCH CONFIDENCE. AND YOU?

I SUPPOSE YOU CLAIM LEGITIMACY IN *YOUR* RUNNING AROUND IN COSTUME AT NIGHT?

TRUST ME, I LIVE *EXACTLY* AS MYSELF. I HAVE NEVER BEEN CAPABLE OF DOING *OTHERWISE.*

BUT I CONFESS, I'M *FASCINATED* WITH THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THIS CHARADE.

I SUPPOSE YOU HAD *DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR* AS A CHILD? ALWAYS WANTED TO GROW UP TO BE A KING? TO BE A *HERO?*

MMM. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HMM. YOU GOT ME. WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU COULD HAVE CUFFED ME ALL ALONG?

THE DAYS ARE HARD. ONE NEEDS *SOME* MINOR AMUSEMENTS, AND MEETING AN ADVERSARY OF YOUR CALIBER IS A *RARITY.*

I CAN'T HELP BUT *AGREE.*

CRASH!

MY GOD-- WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE *BLACK PANTHER* THRIVES IN *DARKNESS,* DOES HE NOT?

LET THEM *HAVE* YOU, THEN.

IT SOUNDED LIKE *GLASS...*

MEANWHILE...ACROSS TOWN, IN THE ILONGA FAMILY COMPOUND...

DJHOTH! KASINDA, WHAT--?

TOO SIMPLE, WORO. YOU SHOULD ASK: "HOW, KASINDA? WHY, KASINDA?"

IS HE...IS IT... *UNCONSCIOUS?*

MORE LIKE *DEACTIVATED.*

SO I TAKE IT YOU'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MAN THEY CALL *DEATHLOK?*

CYBERNETICS, ADVANCED MELEE AND RANGED COMBAT ABILITIES, SELF-REINFORCING INTERIOR STRUCTURE, TARGETED TRACKING AND SURVEILLANCE...

AND WITH ALL THAT...SUSCEPTIBILITY TO A *PHISHING SCHEME* IN WHICH A "*RESEARCH SCIENTIST*" INVITED HIM TO PRESENT AT A CONFERENCE OF MY FABRICATION.

WAKANDA BECKONS, AND *THEY* ARE SO *EAGER* TO *ANSWER*. SAD, REALLY.

AND BABA APPROVES?

HE WILL WHEN OUR FRIEND HERE TAKES OUT THE *NKISU FAMILY.*

WITH THIS *WESTERN* TECHNOLOGY? YOU ARE DREAMING.

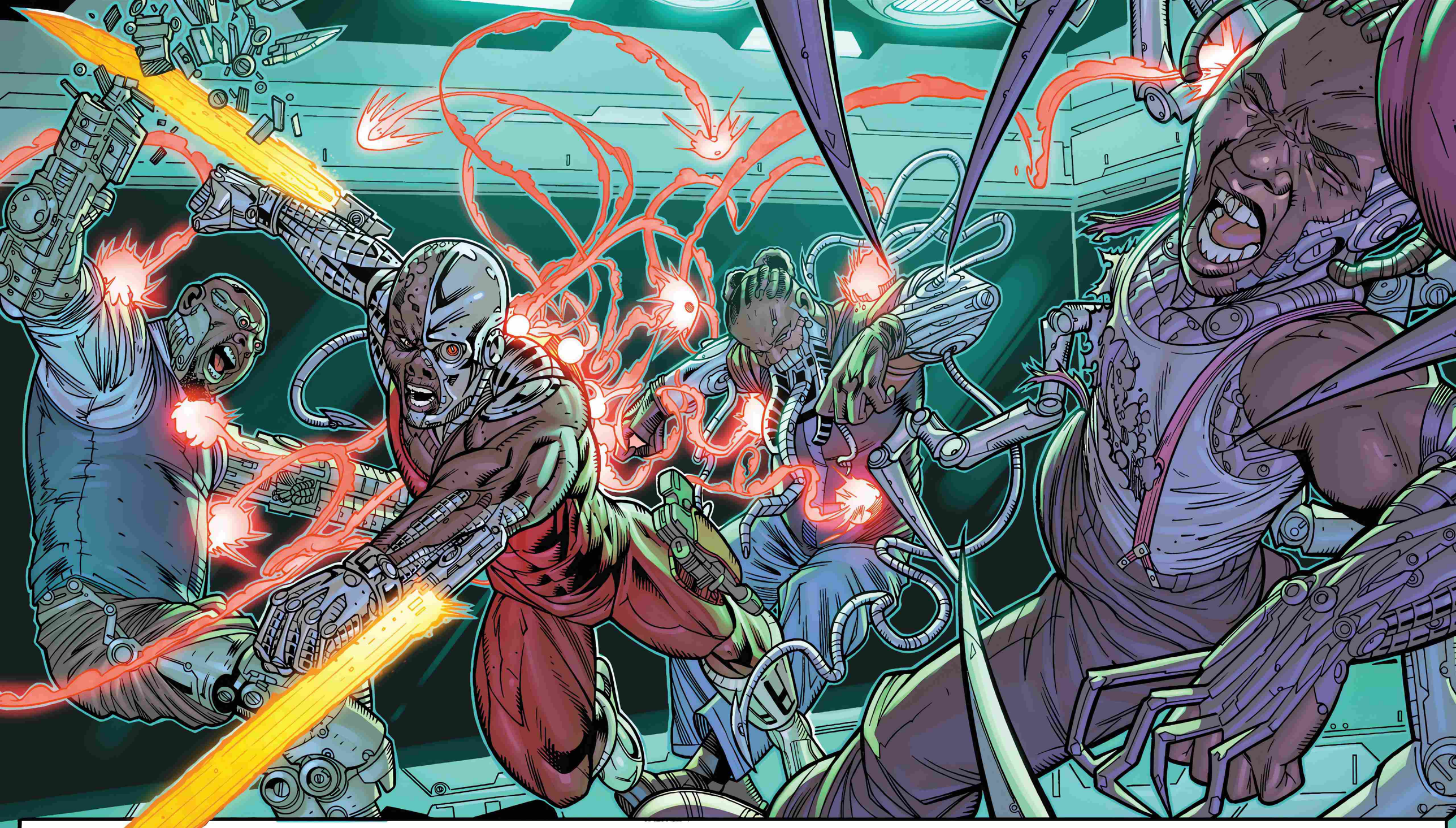
ADU! HZARE! N'KANA! YOU ARE NEEDED.

YOU'LL FIND I'VE MADE SOME *UPGRADES.*

NO! NO! LET ME GO! LET ME--

ANNOYING. NOW ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU WHAT OUR *FRIEND* CAN *DO.*

BOYS, GIVE HIM YOUR *BEST.*



THIS HAS SURPASSED EVEN MY HIGH EXPECTATIONS!

NO! I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN! I DON'T WANT TO--

YES, THIS WILL DO.

"THIS WILL DO *NICELY.*"

WHO *IS* SHE?

MAYBE I'M THINKING ABOUT THIS *BACKWARD.*

WHO IS SHE LOOKING FOR?

FOR *WHOM* IS SHE *LOOKING?*

OH, T'CHALLA. ALL THAT *SCHOOLING,* FOR *NAUGHT.*

TALKING TO YOURSELF? *ISOLATION* SUITS YOU *POORLY.*

OH, I THINK IT SUITS ME BRILLIANTLY. NOTHING BUT TIME TO THINK AROUND HERE.

YOU MEAN TIME TO SIT IN THE DARK AND BROOD. TURN ON A LIGHT, BROTHER.

SO I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS ALTER EGO OF YOURS.

AH, YES. MY DEAR FRIEND IZE.

...SEIZE THE

T'CHALLA. THE KING. THE BLACK PANTHER. AND NOW WE'RE ADDING ONE MORE PERSONALITY?

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, SHURI. BUT I WILL ADMIT, IT CAN BE RELAXING TO BE IZE.

I AM AFRAID I DON'T HAVE LONG TO TALK, IZE.

IZE MBAYA. JUST ARRIVED IN BITI FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE. NO FAMILY. HARD WORKER. WANTS TO OPEN HIS OWN RESTAURANT SOMEDAY. LOVES CATS, RUGBY AND ANGELIQUE KIDJO. HATES PAPAYAS AND ROMANTIC COMEDIES. AFRAID OF SPIDERS. HAS NEVER BEEN TO BIRNIN ZANA.

PARLIAMENT JUST PASSED A NEW TRANSPARENCY LAW. AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE, ALL OF MY COMMUNICATIONS WILL SOON BE POTENTIALLY MONITORED. IT WILL BE HARD FOR ME TO STAY IN TOUCH.

BUT I WORRY DAILY ABOUT YOU. DEFENSELESS IN EXILE.

I AM FAR FROM DEFENSELESS! I STILL HAVE ALL THE SKILLS AND POWERS IMBUED BY THE HEART-SHAPED HERB. AND I AM REMEMBERING HOW TO RELY MORE ON MY SENSES. MY INTUITION.

LAST I CHECKED, YOUR SENSES WOULD RECOMMEND ACCEPTING HELP. I HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING FOR YOU. IT'S TONIGHT. I WILL SEND THE COORDINATES. DON'T ARGUE.

I HAVE TO GO NOW. TAKE CARE, MY BROTHER.

YES, I WILL BE RIGHT THERE.

TAKE CARE, SHURI.

YOU CAN ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF, T'CHALLA.

YOU MISS *BIRNIN ZANA.*

"HE IS HAPPIEST, BE HE KING OR PEASANT, WHO FINDS PEACE IN HIS HOME."

I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE "*KING*" COMPONENT. STILL REASONING THROUGH THE "*PEASANT*" COMPONENT.

AND THE *PEACE.*

THIS IS WHERE SHURI SENT ME. THERE'S NO ONE HERE...

AH. I FORGET THAT THIS IS *NOT* THE GOLDEN CITY.

IT IS THE *RUST CITY.*

GOOD EVENING, YOUR NOT-SO-HIGHNESS. HOPE YOU DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE FINDING ME.

YOUR SISTER ASKED ME IF I COULD PASS ALONG A FEW *TOYS* I'VE BEEN WORKING ON.

MAKE IT QUICK, *NIGHTSHADE.* I HAVE ONE MORE *STOP* TONIGHT.

PLEASURE SEEING YOU AGAIN *TOO.*

ACROSS TOWN...

TO KNOW A CITY, YOU HAVE TO KNOW *ALL* ITS RHYTHMS.

I *REFUSE* TO SHOP THERE ANYMORE! SERVICE HAS GONE *COMPLETELY* DOWNHILL.

IT'S TRUE, IT'S TRUE.

YOU WERE RIGHT. YOUR DAUGHTER IS STILL *WITH* HIM.

PAYMENT IS DUE TOMORROW.

NOT JUST THE PARTS YOU *LOVE*.

SHENTI, ARE YOU GETTING *ON* OR *NOT*?

NOT JUST THE EASY PARTS. KNOW IT IN THE SUN...

...AND KNOW IT IN THE GLOOM.

IT'S HANDY, THEN, THAT I DON'T SLEEP MUCH.

I CAN SENSE THAT I'M GETTING *CLOSER.*

LET'S SEE IF THIS HAS WHAT I NEED OR IF I WAS LEFT PICKING GLASS SHARDS FROM MY SUIT FOR NOTHING.

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, MY DEAR ONE?

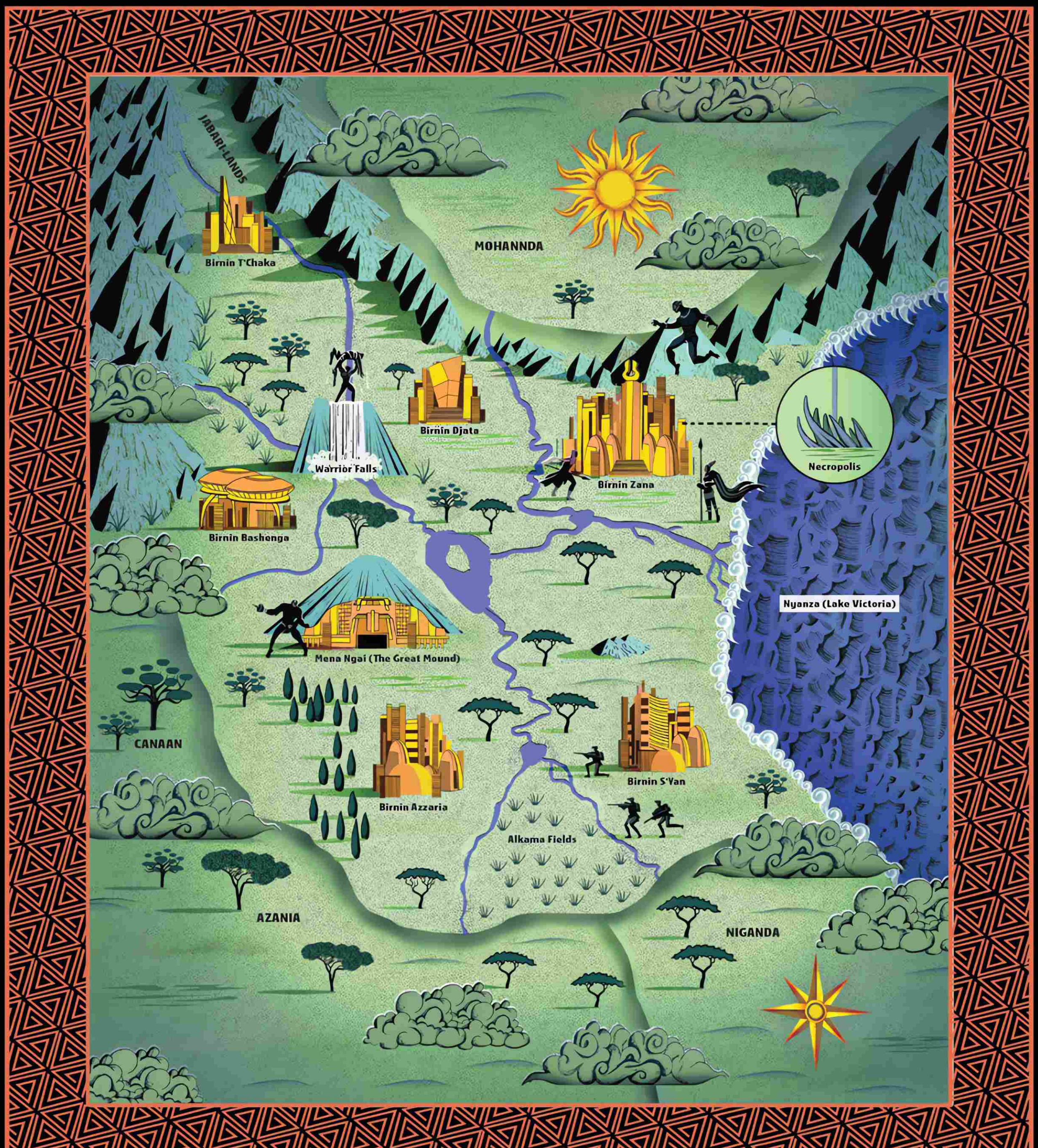
PLAYING DETECTIVE, I SEE. AND YOU SAID I HAD *DELUSIONS* OF *GRANDEUR.*

PERHAPS IT'S TIME YOU AND I GET TO *KNOW* ONE ANOTHER.

NEXT: A WAKANDAN WEDDING

MAP OF WAKANDA

BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE MAP BY MAP** (2021).



BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

NEXT ISSUE:

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